

GEORGE LOCKHART RIVES

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GEORGE LOCKHART RIVES
President of The New York Public Library

GEORGE LOCKHART RIVES

THE HON. GEORGE LOCKHART RIVES, President of The New York Public Library, died at his summer home in Newport, August 18, 1917.

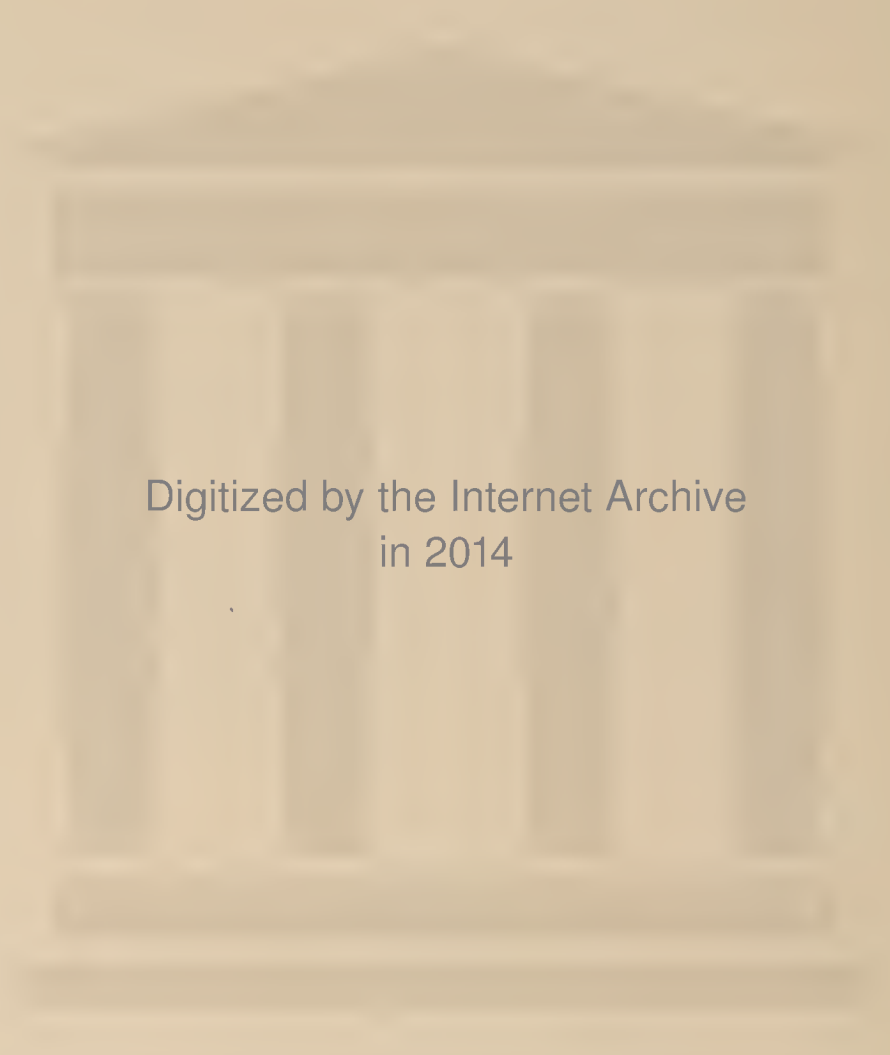
Mr. Rives was elected a trustee of the Astor Library in 1883. He filled this office until he offered his resignation in 1888, in order to move to Washington as Assistant Secretary of State. In 1893 he was elected a trustee of the Lenox Library, and, as such, became a member of the new Board of Trustees of The New York Public Library. He was Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Library from its organization in May, 1895, until his resignation in 1902, when he was appointed Corporation Counsel of the City of New York. He continued his membership of the Board, however, and became successively Second Vice-President and First Vice-President. Following the death of Mr. Cadwalader, he was elected President on May 13, 1914.

It is difficult to describe adequately the importance of Mr. Rives' services in the creation and development of the Public Library. The working out of the scheme for the consolidation of the three constituent corporations was a complicated task. So also was the adjustment of the various relations between the Library and the City, both with reference to the construction and operation of the central building and the establishment and maintenance of the many circulation branches. When these had been arranged, the development of the institution in such a way as to meet the growing needs of the public required and still requires most careful attention. In all of this Mr. Rives gave his best and constant effort, and the results that have been accomplished bear the unfading mark of his able and devoted participation.

Mr. Rives was an honorary Doctor of Laws of both Amherst and Princeton, a Governor and former President of the New York Hospital and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His most important published work was his two-volume history, "United States and Mexico, 1821 to 1848."

The New York Sun, on August 22, 1917, published in its editorial columns an estimate of Mr. Rives' services, which was in part as follows:

In Newport this morning the burial service will be read over the body of a citizen whom New York can ill afford to lose.



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